

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

GENETIC DISEASE BRANCH  
2151 BERKELEY WAY, ANNEX 4  
BERKELEY, CA 94704



December 4, 2001

Dear Prenatal Care Provider:

The Department of Health Services is counting on your assistance in launching the Newborn Screening Tandem Mass Spectrometry (MS/MS) project on January 7, 2002. This is a large-scale research project that will provide supplemental screening for additional metabolic disorders in newborns. The result of the project is expected to lead to the expansion of the California Newborn Screening Program.

For the duration of the project, anticipated to be 12-18 months in length, parents' informed consent will be required to authorize their baby's already-collected newborn screening specimen to be used for additional testing via Tandem Mass Spectrometry (MS/MS). Parents will receive information about the supplemental screening project in the enclosed revised booklet, *Important Information for Parents about the Newborn Screening Test*. As you know, state law requires that prenatal care providers furnish this booklet to patients prior to the estimated date of delivery. Some parents may ask questions of their doctors to help them decide if they will participate in the study. For this reason, it is important that prenatal care providers have an understanding of the project, its objectives, and how it can benefit newborns and their families.

Enclosed you will find the following documents for your information and use in answering parents questions about this additional screening:

- Copy of *Important Information for Parents about the Newborn Screening Test (IIP)* and a booklet reorder form. This booklet includes information about the current mandatory program as well as the supplemental screening research program in English and Spanish. Booklets translated into Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Korean are also available.
- Fact Sheet for Prenatal Care Providers
- Script for Prenatal Care Providers

If you have questions about the program or would like additional information, please call the MS/MS Follow-up Coordinator at our toll-free number (866) 954-BABY (954-2229). If you prefer, you may e-mail your questions to [msms@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:msms@dhs.ca.gov). Thank you for your assistance in helping us improve newborn screening in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George Cunningham'.

George C. Cunningham, MD, MPH, Chief  
Genetic Disease Branch